SUDOKU ALPHA

QUICK **A5302**

		5				3		2
		8		6		5	4	
7			2				8	
	1	3		9				8
							6	
	8	2		4	1			5
1			9				7	
	7			3		2		
		4	7					9

TRICKY **B5302**

7						2	5	
	1	3		9				
	8		4		5			
4						3		2
1				7		5		
					9	6	7	
		8		1				
2	9					4		
3					2			

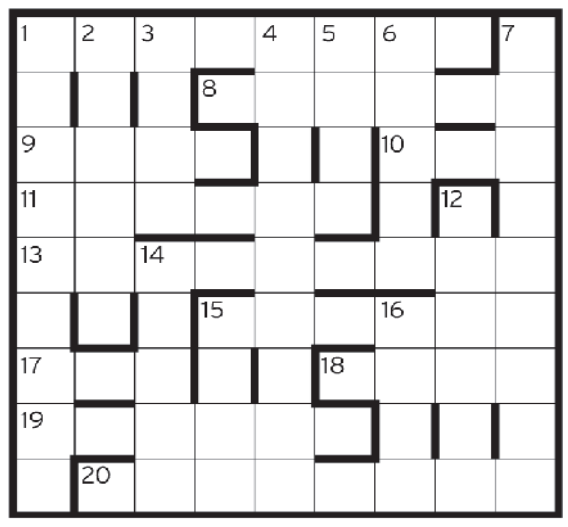
To solve this puzzle each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. While the rules may be simple, there are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. For hints and information visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Created by Peter Ritmeester (C) PZZL.com

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

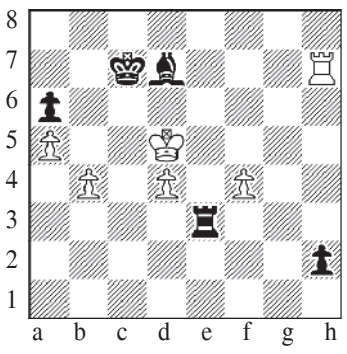
1 Drawings labelled with text (8)
8 Bring to mind (6)
9 Stalk (4)
10 _ Gershwin, lyricist (3)
11 Combines or blends (6)
13 Inert croc (anag.) (9)
15 Prior to (6)
17 Observe (3)
18 Hiding place (4)
19 Anticipate (6)
20 Under emotional pressure (8)



DOWN

1 Sends away (9)
2 Purpose (6)
3 Assert, declare (4)
4 Citation (9)
5 Expert pilots (4)
6 US state (5)
7 Complimented (9)
12 Clerk (6)
14 Sneaked (5)
15 Alcoholic drink (4)
16 Trees that produce acorns (4)

CHESS

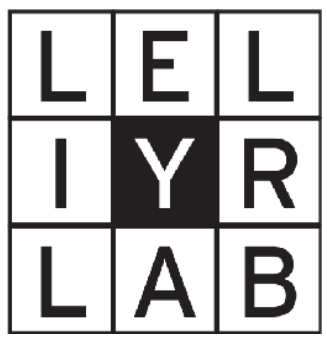


BLACK HAS A CRUSHER

HINT: UNPIN THE BISHOP.

Solution: 1. ... h1=Qch! 2. Rxh1 Bg6ch! 3. Kc5 Rc3 mate! [from Baramidze-Naditsch, '14].

TARGET



HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?
In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word.
No plurals or verb forms ending in "s".

TODAY'S TARGET

Good 16;

Very good 24;

Excellent 31 (or more).

Solution tomorrow.

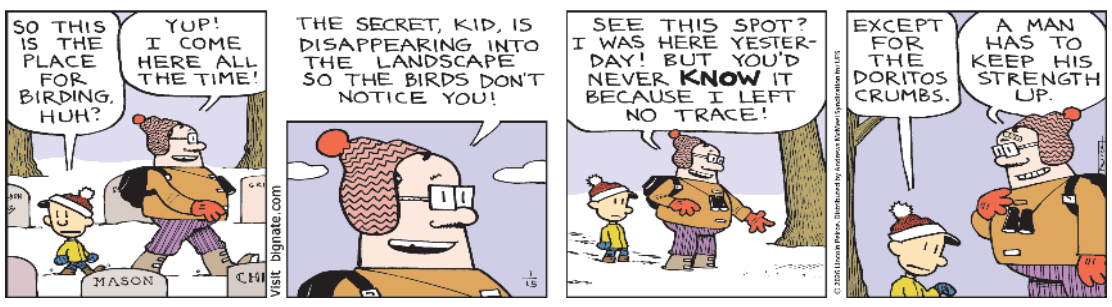
YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

COALFIELD

aced, acid, afield, aide, ailed, allied, cadi, called, cedilla, clad, clod, coaled, COALFIELD, coda, code, coiled, cold, collide, dace, dale, deaf, deal, decaf, decal, delf, deli, dell, dial, dice, dill, docile, dolce, dole, doll, ecad, faced, fade, failed, field, filed, filled, flailed, fled, foaled, foiled, fold, iced, idea, ideal, idle, idol, laced, lade, ladle, laid, lead, lido, lied, load, loafed, lode, oiled, oldie

THE METRO FUNNIES

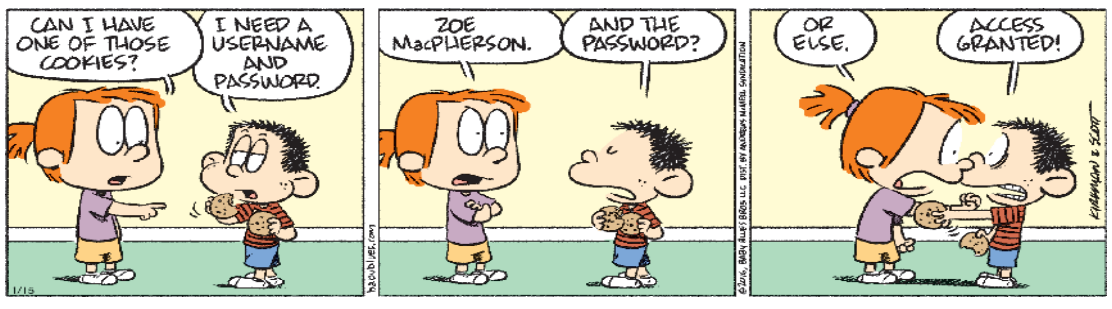
BIG NATE | BY LINCOLN PEIRCE


SO THIS IS THE PLACE FOR BIRDING, HUH?
YUP! I COME HERE ALL THE TIME!
MASON
THE SECRET, KID, IS DISAPPEARING INTO THE LANDSCAPE SO THE BIRDS DON'T NOTICE YOU!
SEE THIS SPOT? I WAS HERE YESTERDAY! BUT YOU'D NEVER KNOW IT BECAUSE I LEFT NO TRACE!
EXCEPT FOR THE DORITOS CRUMBS.
A MAN HAS TO KEEP HIS STRENGTH UP.
Visit bignate.com

THE WIZARD OF ID | BY BRANT PARKER AND JOHNNY HART

NOW THE NEWS...
THE WIZARD OF ID CLAIMS TO HAVE SPIKED THE WATER SUPPLY WITH TRUTH SERUM
AUTHORITIES, HOWEVER, HAVE NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THIS CLAIM
ALSO, THE KING IS AN IDIOT, AND I'VE NEVER BEEN GOOD ENOUGH FOR MY MOTHER...

BABY BLUES



WEATHER

Sunset & Sunrise

	Hyderabad	Islamabad	Karachi	Lahore	Peshawar	Quetta
Sunset	05:58pm	05:25pm	06:04pm	05:23pm	05:29pm	05:59pm
Sunrise	07:13am	07:09am	07:17am	07:00am	07:16am	07:25am

Three Day Forecast

	Today				Tomorrow				Day After		
	Min	Max	Outlook	Humidity%	Min	Max	Outlook		Min	Max	Outlook
Faisalabad	6	17	Fog	81	6	18	Cloudy		6	18	Cloudy
Hyderabad	10	27	Partly Cloudy	54	12	28	Partly Cloudy		11	26	Partly Cloudy
Islamabad	8	20	Partly Cloudy	45	8	18	Cloudy		7	19	Cloudy
Lahore	5	15	Fog	89	6	17	Cloudy		7	17	Partly Cloudy
Multan	7	18	Partly Cloudy	62	7	19	Cloudy		7	19	Sunny
Peshawar	6	20	Partly Cloudy	54	6	19	Cloudy		7	20	Partly Cloudy
Quetta	7	19	Mostly Cloudy	39	2	16	Partly Cloudy		0	14	Mostly Sunny

Temperature estimates are internationally sourced and may differ from local estimates.

HELP

EMERGENCIES

Police Help	15, 99212652-53, 99212634
CPLC	1102, 35662222
Fire Brigade	16, 99215007, 99215008.
Bomb Disposal	99212674
KE Complaints	118
Telephone complaints	1218
Railway Inquiry	99213565-66
PCAA Flight Inquiry	99071284, 99071259
	99071265, 114

HOSPITALS

Abbasi Shaheed	99260400-09
Civil Hospital	99215740, 9215960
Jinnah Hospital	99201300-99201301
NICVD	99201271-6
Aga Khan Hospital	34930051
Medicare Hospital	021-111-001-786
Kharadar Gen Hospital	32510113-16
Indus Hospital	35112709
Tabba	36811841, 111844844
Ziauddin Hospital	35862937-9, 36648237-9
Kiran Cancer Hospital	99261601-04
Liaquat National	111-456-456, 34939615
Memon Medical	34691147 — 54
A.O. Clinic	36685564, 3668550-64
Baqai Hospital	36618396, 36618398
Holy Family Hospital	32258994, 32258991
Patel Hospital	111174174
South City Hospital	35374072
Kidney Centre Institute	35661000-10
Karwan-e-Hayat	021-111534111
Usman Memorial	021-36310311-15

AMBULANCE

Edhi	115, 32310066, 32310077
Chhipa	1020
SIEHS/Rescue	1122
St.John	32250500, 32250600
Red Crescent	35306227, 35306228

BLOOD BANK

Fatmid	32225284, 32258656
Husaini	32238405-08
PWA (Civil)	99215740, 99215959

WORD GAME

By Kathleen Saxe

▼ TODAY'S WORD
EUPHORIA

(EUPHORIA: yoo-FOR-ee-uh: A feeling of well-being or elation.)

Average mark 26 words
Time limit 35 minutes

Can you find 32 or more words in EUPHORIA?

The list will be published tomorrow.

SOLUTIONS

▼ YESTERDAY'S WORD — TINSEL

tile	snit
tine	stein
inlet	stile
inset	enlist
isle	lenis
islet	lens
istle	lent
nest	lest
sent	lien
silent	line
silt	lint
sine	list
site	listen
slit	lite

RULES OF THE GAME:

1. Words must be of four or more letters.
2. Words that acquire four letters by the addition of "s," such as "bats" or "dies," are not allowed.
3. Additional words made by adding a "d" or an "s" may not be used. For example, if "bake" is used, "baked" or "bakes" are not allowed, but "bake" and "baking" are admissible.
4. Proper nouns, slang words, or vulgar or sexually explicit words are not allowed.

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

ACROSS

2 Suffrage
9 Unsure
10 Tees
11 Here
13 Molar
14 Easter egg
16 Renew
19 Clef
20 Edge
21 Arrive
22 Parakeet.

DOWN

1 Buttercup
3 Users
4 Fuss
5 Framework
6 Axel
7 Garage
8 Evergreen
12 Paella
15 Eddie
17 Near
18 Mere.

METRO EVENTS

WORKSHOP

A workshop on creative writing at the library of Iqra University, Gulshan campus, at 11:45am
.

DISCUSSION

A discussion on 'Urdu Translations of Sindhi Novels' at PMA House, Garden Road, at 5:30pm.

MEDICAL CAMP

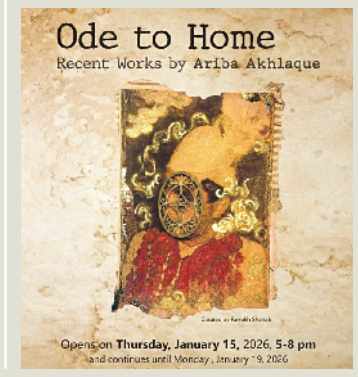
A free medical camp by Iqra University Nursing College in collaboration with Khadijatul Kubra Foundation at 7D-3, North Karachi, from 10am to 2pm.

CAREER CONNECT

'Career Connect 2026' is organised by the Department of Computer Science, University of Karachi, at UBIT Ground, at 9am.

EXHIBITION

Ode to Home, an exhibition of artworks, opens at Artciti Gallery, at 5pm. The show will continue till Jan 19.



HOROSCOPE

By Georgia Nicols

ARIES | March 21-April 19

**** A parent, boss or someone in authority might do a favour for you today or give you a gift of some kind. Be open to this possibility. Whatever happens could evolve into making you feel more secure about what you're doing and how you're living. It's a good day to learn something new! Tonight: Explore!

TAURUS | April 20-May 20

**** Surprise opportunities might fall in your lap today. This is also a very romantic day! You might strike up a flirtation with someone "different," or even fall in love with someone of an age difference (or they might be more settled and established). Tonight: Check your finances.

GEMINI | May 21-June 20

*** Keep an eye on your banking and financial transactions because something unexpected could impact them. Very likely, it will be to your benefit. This could be a gift or something you're happy to see. It also might give you some long-term benefit. Meanwhile, romance is passionate! Tonight: Listen and cooperate.

CANCER | June 21-July 22

**** There's a surprising aspect to your relationships or friendships today, so be on your toes. Something unusual might happen that pleases you. You also might sit down and have a serious discussion about the division of labor or shared expenses. An exciting new contact might occur. Tonight: Get organized.

LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

**** This is a playful, fun-loving day, which is why you want to socialize or do something different. You're also ready to accept responsibilities that are related to any task that you're doing or at your job. However, something unexpected might occur. Perhaps a flirtation. Tonight: Socialize!

VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

***** Something surprising or exciting might happen today. You might get an invitation to socialize. You might meet someone new and different who is unusual. New romance might percolate. Parents should be vigilant because it's a mildly accident-prone day for your kids. Tonight: Relax at home.

LIBRA | Sept. 23-Oct. 22

**** Something unexpected might please your family. You might buy something high-tech or attractive. Someone unexpected might knock at your door. You're also ready to do something to solidify your home base and secure your future -- something sensible. Tonight: Important conversations.

SCORPIO | Oct. 23-Nov. 21

**** This is a pleasant day. New places, new faces and new ideas might give your day an unexpected lift! Serious discussions might help you to solidify social plans, vacations or ways of educating and dealing with your kids. Money is on your mind. Tonight: Check your possessions.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

**** Today the Moon is in your sign, which gives you a slight edge over everyone else. Why not ask the universe for a favor and see what happens? Meanwhile, keep an eye on your money and possessions because something unexpected could occur. On the upside, you might get a gift. Tonight: You win!

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

**** Find some quiet time today to take a breather. Nevertheless, social occasions might make sudden demands on your time, especially if you feel you must respond out of a sense of courtesy or social obligation. Spontaneous shopping for wardrobe items will delight you. Tonight: Seek privacy.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

**** A secret love affair or a flirtation might happen today. A discussion with a female friend or a member of a group could impact your future plans. Perhaps this is because something going on behind the scenes can now stabilize your finances in some way. Tonight: Talk to a friend.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

**** It's a popular day! Unexpected flirtations and encounters with others will make this a pleasant, fun-loving day for you. Stay light on your feet so that you can be flexible and ready to jump in any direction. You might hang out with someone older or take time to fill social responsibilities or show respect to someone. Tonight: You're noticed.

The stars show the kind of day you'll have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-so-so; 1-Difficult

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Bidding Quiz

By Steve Becker

He shoulda stood in bed

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A K J 8 4 3
♥ 6 3
♦ Q 9 8 5
♣ 2

WEST
♠ 10
♥ 7 5
♦ A
♣ Q J 10 9 8 6 5 4 3

EAST
♠ Q 9 7 6 5 2
♥ 9 8 4
♦ 7 6 3 2
♣ --

SOUTH
♠ --
♥ A K Q J 10 2
♦ K J 10 4
♣ A K 7

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
2 ♥	5 ♣	6 ♥	Dble

Opening lead -- three of clubs.

This deal occurred years ago in a high-stakes rubber-bridge game. Looking at only the North-South cards, it is hard to believe the eventual outcome.

Certainly, North had a tough choice of responses after his partner opened with a game-forcing two-heart bid and West cramped the bidding by leaping to five clubs. It seemed likely, from North's viewpoint, that there was a slam somewhere, and he elected to go for it in his partner's suit. East interjected a jarring note by doubling, and West made the killing lead of a club, selecting the three rather than the queen to direct a diamond return if his partner won the first trick.

Ordinarily, declarer would have made six hearts easily, but in the actual case he suffered a catastrophe of cataclysmic proportions. East ruffed the club and returned a diamond to his partner's ace, whereupon West led another club, East ruffing again.

East would now have had a problem as to whether to return a spade or a diamond, except that West's second club lead had been the four, asking once again for a low-suit return. Had West been void of spades, he would have asked for that return by leading the queen of clubs instead of the four.

So East led a diamond at trick four, ruffed by West, who continued the onslaught by giving his partner a third club ruff. East returned the compliment by giving his partner another diamond ruff, after which the defense finally ran out of steam.

All told, South lost a diamond and five trump tricks to go down 1,400 points on a hand that offered nearly a 100% chance to make six hearts! Into each life some rain -- in this case a monsoon -- must fall!

Tomorrow: Test your play.

YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

Quick — A5301

8	5	9	4	6	1	3	7	2
7	2	4	5	8	3	1	9	6
6	3	1	9	2	7	5	4	8
4	6	3	8	9	5	7	2	1
9	1	5	2	7	4	6	8	3
2	8	7	1	3	6	4	5	9
3	4	2	6	5	8	9	1	7
1	7	8	3	4	9	2	6	5
5	9	6	7	1	2	8	3	4

Tricky — B5301

2	7	5	3	9	4	8	6	1
3	8	4	1	2	6	7	5	9
9	6	1	5	8	7	4	3	2
8	5	7	6	4	1	9	2	3
6	1	2	8	3	9	5	7	4
4	9	3	7	5	2	1	8	6
1	2	8	4	7	3	6	9	5
5	4	9	2	6	8	3	1	7
7	3	6	9	1	5	2	4	8